

THE FLATBOATMEN

A True Story of the Ohio Valley
In the Eighteenth Century.

By DWIGHT NORWOOD

The boys of the first half of the nineteenth century read Indian stories of what may now be called the easterly west. The main avenue to the conquest of this same region, later called the middle west, was through the Ohio valley and the tributaries of that stream. The stories these boys read were not the fictitious tales their children or grandchildren pursued in the latter part of the same century of the red man of the "plains" or the Rocky mountains, but real happenings to pioneers passing down "La belle riviere," as the early French settlers called the Ohio river, to open up what became Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and other territory in that region.

As soon as the Revolutionary war ended the tide of emigration to these states commenced. From Pittsburgh to its confluence with the Mississippi the Ohio was dotted with the flatboat of the period.

Hostile Indians infested the Ohio valley and were fertile in stratagem, as all red men have always been. When they took prisoners they would compel them to act as decoys to emigrants on the flatboats. There were also renegade whites who served the same purpose. These whites would hail a flatboat and beg the emigrants to take them aboard, saying that they had been captured by Indians and escaped. As soon as the boat came into the back waters on the shore, where it could only with difficulty be brought again into the current, it would be attacked by Indians who had been concealed on the shore. In time this stratagem became known to the whites, and they would refuse to listen to the decoy's pleading. Yet there were times when the pleader was sincere and was denied rescue.

Other devices were resorted to by the Indians to lure the flatboatmen to the shore that they might be murdered and plundered. Game was plentiful in the forests, and the red men would imitate the sounds made by animals on birds. The wild turkey, which was obtainable in America till the middle of latter part of the nineteenth century was a coveted meat by these pioneers, and often when the gobbler was heard the boat would be steered to shore and a hunting party sent for the birds.

In 1788 Henry Crist and Solomon Spears, engaged in obtaining salt from the Kentucky licks, with a party of thirteen whites, including one woman, left Louisville and floated down the Ohio till they reached the mouth of Salt river, which they ascended by the back water. Scouts were sent ashore on the near bank of Salt river while the boat moved slowly onward. On the morning of the second day of this ascent the boat was landed and preparations were made for breakfast. The gobbling of the wild turkey was heard in the woods, and two of the crew went ashore with their guns to secure a bird or two for the meal.

Now, these persons had seen indications of the presence of Indians and knew that the gobbling of the turkey was a common decoy with them. But not stopping to deliberate they fell into the trap. Scarcely had they reached the shore when more than a hundred Indians sprang forward.

Whoever has seen an Indian painted for war, his features made savage by the colored lines drawn upon them, can imagine the terror inspired by the attack. Few persons now living have seen this sight, but those who have cannot understand how white men during the early history of America could take their wives and little children, too, to make homes in a country where they were liable at any moment to be murdered.

Of the flatboat party two were on shore, the rest still on the boat, which had been fastened to a tree by means of a chain that had been carried around the trunk and a hook on the end inserted in a link. The object of the Indians being to secure the emigrants, the boat and its cargo, they made a furious attack upon the whole party.

Every man sprang to his gun, and since in all there were a dozen guns the Indians, who never wasted life in their encounters if they could help it, retired behind the trees on the bank.

Then commenced a steady fire on the boat. The Indians were protected by the trees, and the return fire from the whites availed little or nothing. Besides the advantage of hiding behind trees, the savages were on higher ground. Now one and now another of the pioneers fell, but such was the necessity for every man to stand by his rifle that the killed were not heeded and the wounded were left to take care of themselves.

Unfortunately for the whites the boat lay with its bow to the shore, and the salt kettles had been placed along the sides, leaving an open space through which the Indians sent a destructive fire. The water underneath the boat was deep enough to float her, and it was desirable to disengage the boat from the shore, in which event she would float out into the current and beyond the reach of the Indians' bullets. But if any one went ashore to

unhook the chain he would be dropped immediately.

Meanwhile the Indians were picking off the men one by one. Every time they dropped a man there arose a hideous yell that, with the loss of their companion and the prospect of death for themselves, froze the blood in the pioneers' veins. Efforts would have been made to turn the boat so that they would get the protection of the salt kettles, but any man who attempted to use an oar for the purpose must stand up to be shot down.

Solomon Spears and several others were killed, and it looked as if the whole party would fall before the red men. A man named Fosset, one of the two who had gone ashore, had suffered a broken arm from a bullet, but had retreated to the boat. Not being able to hold a rifle, he busied himself by trying to loose the chain. Taking a pole, he lay low in the bow and endeavored to force the hook out of the link with the pole's end, but he only drove it inward. Finally with a short projection caused by the cutting of a branch from the pole he succeeded in removing the hook from the link.

What must have been the feelings of those who yet lived on the boat to see the chain unwound from the tree and rattle down the bank into the water! Would the eddy have sufficient force to carry the boat out into the current? Would the chain retard her sufficiently to prevent her moving? One of the men sprang to an oar which he could work overhead without exposing himself to the enemy's fire and succeeded in working the boat out into the current.

For the first time since the fight began an hour before those who lived could spare a moment to count the dead and wounded. Five of the party were killed outright and four wounded.

Solomon Spears was mortally wounded. He urged the survivors to pull the boat to the opposite side of the river and flee for their lives. But the current carried them to a position further downstream where they would again be within range of the Indians' rifles. Running down the bank, yelling as only savages could yell, they again attacked the whites. Two of the men who had been spared to fight, Crepps and Crist, each seizing a rifle, ascended the bank. The Indians fired a volley at them and fell back into a ravine, putting a bullet into Crepps' side and crushing Crist's heel. Another man who had followed the two into the fight returned to the boat and reported that he had left his companions on the shore powerless to get away.

Taking advantage of the retirement of the Indians, the few remaining aboard the boat pulled her again out into the middle of the river.

With the boat full of dead and wounded, with only one or two able to man the oars, the chance of escape was still small. But fortunately they were in the current, and the Indians, either satisfied with their work or not caring further to expose themselves, permitted them to drift away, and they reached a point of safety.

The settlers, having been roused by the story of the massacre, went at once to the scene of the final encounter to rescue the two men who had fallen. Crepps was found to be mortally wounded. He was brought away, but died during his removal. Crist's efforts to save himself were thrilling. Not being able to touch his wounded heel to the ground, he crawled into a thicket; but, realizing that the Indians would find him there, he took off his moccasins, bound them to his knees and started to crawl eight miles to a salt lick. For three days he had not tasted food. Weakened by hunger, suffering excruciating pain from his shattered heel, his progress was necessarily very slow, being not more than half a mile an hour.

One night—it was the second after he commenced his tortoise journey—while lying near a trail he heard the sound of horse's hoofs. He called for help, whereupon the sounds were heard going away from him. This was naturally a bitter disappointment. Crist lay where he was, intending to resume his journey in the morning, hoping against hope that he would retain the strength to finish it.

The horseman who had passed, hearing a voice in the wood, either from fear of an enemy or superstition hurried on and, riding to a settlement, reported his experience. The settlers, realizing that some white man might be needing assistance, formed a posse and rode out to where the voice was heard. There they found Crist exhausted and brought him in.

The story of the woman of the party is given in a few words, and yet it must have been a long and harrowing one. She was carried to Canada and ransomed by a trader. In this sentence her story is summarized. What she suffered during that long journey of hundreds of miles and how her captors treated her are among the dread stories of that thrilling period. "Taken to Canada and ransomed by a trader"—there is scarcely enough of it for an epitaph on a tombstone. And yet who knows but that in some old trunk, in a dingy garret, a yellow manuscript lies hidden which now and again through successive generations some descendant of that woman may take out, peruse and put back to be read later on by some other of her progeny?

If in the story of these flatboatmen we are impressed with their hardihood one other item arrests our attention. It is that twelve white men and one white woman defended themselves against 120 Indians for an hour, the enemy being above them on the bank and protected by trees, and that the whites succeeded in loosening their boat and pulling it out into the stream. Later these same Indians, or a large part of them, were put to flight by two white men.

CALEDONIA COUNTY.

The St. Johnsbury House at St. Johnsbury is to have an extension of 100 feet long and 38 feet wide, the improvements costing \$25,000. Forty-two additional guest rooms are to be added.

R. N. Lowell of Sutton, who was injured last November in Waterford, died the other day at St. Johnsbury. He was hauling lumber and the bridge collapsed as he drove his team onto it. He was hurried under the lumber and sustained fearful injuries to his back.

The public service commission has made the following assignment for hearings: March 21, at the St. Johnsbury house at 10 a. m. In re No. 457, petition Essex Storage Electric company as to whether the establishment and maintenance of the proposed corporation will promote the general good of the state.

The new Grace Methodist church was opened Sunday, Feb. 27, hundreds of parishioners worshipping in the handsome new edifice. It replaces the one burned a year ago last January and when completed will be one of the finest and best equipped church homes in Vermont. The building is 60x120, of New Hampshire granite, with trimmings of Hardwick granite, and the interior is finished in oak. The church and furnishings, including the large pipe organ will represent a cost of \$50,000. The church is being built by the Cummings Construction company of Ware, Mass. Work was begun last June, the corner stone laid Sept. 18. It is expected now that the building will be completed in May, and that the dedication will take place May 14, with Bishop Hamilton presiding and assisted by former pastors of the church. The impressive services Sunday were conducted by the pastor, Rev. George A. Martin, and were held in the assembly room, the auditorium not being completed. Since the church was burned, the services have been held in the Colonial theatre. Many generous gifts have made the new Grace church possible. The beautiful memorial windows are all gifts. The main window at the front of the church is being made by Tiffany of New York. This is to be 20x12 feet and will be placed in the building in September. The building committee is composed of the pastor, A. L. Bailey, R. Q. Hamilton, S. D. Atwood and Calvin L. Clark.

WEST BURKE

Dr. and Mrs. Burke spent Sunday in Derby Line.

Arthur Oaks spent Sunday with friends in town.

Mrs. Mary Dearborn of Newport was in town Thursday.

Mrs. H. C. Colby is visiting in Newport and Derby Line.

Little Anna Burke has been visiting relatives in Derby Line.

Archie Bailey spent Sunday with friends in St. Johnsbury.

Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Ruggles are spending this week in Boston.

Mrs. M. M. Coe is boarding at Dr. Dickerman's for a few weeks.

Miss Laura Fish of Montreal is the guest of her sister, Mrs. O. L. Worthen.

Miss Carrie Marshall is spending her vacation with relatives in and near Boston.

Mrs. C. E. Marshall and little daughter spent Sunday with friends in St. Johnsbury.

Five new 'phones have recently been installed in this exchange, and there are more to follow.

Mrs. Alton Marsh of Barton was the guest of her aunt, Mrs. William Wallace, over Sunday.

Mrs. Shores of East St. Johnsbury has been spending several days with her sister, Mrs. Celia Buzzell.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Turner have returned from St. Johnsbury, where they have been spending the winter.

Miss Florence Humphrey is in Boston buying her spring millinery, and Miss Belle Fairbanks, who is to work for her this spring, is looking after the store during her absence.

Miss Mattie Dickerman goes to Brightlook hospital next week to take up the nurses' training course. Miss Dickerman is one of our best young ladies, and we wish her much success in her new work.

On Friday afternoon of this week Miss Newton of Lyndon will speak to the Women's club, and the school on Garden Class work and the Maple Sugar contest, which we hope will interest our boys and girls. The meeting will be held in the schoolhouse at 2 o'clock.

SHEFFIELD

Merritt Phillips has been quite sick the past week.

Forrest Blake has hired out at Speedwell farms.

Andrew Roberts is improving after a few days' illness.

Eunice Simpson has been sick the past week with grip.

Gertie Kelton of Glover was a recent visitor at Mrs. Lyon's.

Ray Watkins was quite sick last week, but is improving.

Mrs. Hudson Lathe recently fell and hurt her shoulder quite badly.

Mrs. Lyon sprained her ankle quite badly last week, but is better now.

Lewis Masure of Sutton was a recent visitor at the home of his sister, Mrs. Chester Ash.

George Leavitt of Worcester, Mass., was a business visitor in town the first of the week.

Thomas Hall of Hardwick was a recent visitor at the home of his sister, Mrs. Harry Davis.

Miss Newton of Lyndon addressed the children Friday afternoon, which they all enjoyed very much.

May Hall of Canaan, a former teacher here, was recently married to Waldo Nealey of that place. Congratulations.

The basket ball game Friday night between the 'Village boys and the home team resulted in favor of the home team 18 to 10.

The village girls and Square girls played a game of basket ball Saturday evening, the village girls winning by a score of 12 to 6.

Mr. Niles, who has been working for Irving Brown, has finished work and returned to his home in Newport Center.

Thirty-five from this place went to Wheelock to the play Tuesday night and all enjoyed it. It was an extra good play for home talent.

Mrs. Wiley Willard of Passumpsic is visiting relatives for a few days. She will go from here to Derby Center to visit her sister, Mrs. Allchurch.

Herbert Mitchell has sold his place to Herman Sheldon, who recently came here from Newport Center. Mr. Mitchell expects to go to Lyndon, having traded for Gard. Cushman's place.

Miss Doris Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Jones of this place, who is studying music at the Weltman Conservatory at Malden, Mass., is taking the place of one of the assistant piano teachers who is ill.

The Sons and Daughters of Liberty will give a short play together with their amusements Friday night. Miss Kennedy of Lyndon will help make the evening program by giving some of her good readings. Miss Kennedy is young in years but it will be hard to find her equal even among the older and more experienced readers. She is the daughter of Mrs. Eddie Ash of Lyndon. There will be a promenade at the close of the entertainment.

SUTTON

Willis Wood recently visited in Newport and Morgan.

Will Libby has hired out to work for Charles Whipple for the summer.

Bertha Craig of St. Johnsbury is spending a few days at her home here.

George Thayer and friend of Waterbury are visiting his sister, Mrs. C. E. Lafoe.

Eveline and Mabel Story have gone to Newport to visit their aunt, Mrs. Sisco, for a few weeks.

Mrs. F. W. Craig was called to Lowell Thursday by the serious illness of her daughter, Mrs. Lilla Benware, and is staying to help care for her.

Mrs. Lilla (Craig) Benware of Lowell, formerly of this place, is very sick with inflammation of the stomach. A council of doctors was called Friday and it was thought necessary to perform an operation, but the latest reports are that there has been a slight change in her favor, though she is still very low. Her many friends hope for her speedy recovery.

SUTTON NORTH RIDGE

Mrs. M. P. Gilman has been visiting her brother in St. Johnsbury.

Miss Belle Fairbanks is working for Miss Humphrey in her millinery store in West Burke.

ONCE A SOVEREIGN STATE.

Now Noll is Simply a Fishing Village With a Past.

One of the oddest and quaintest little independent states that ever existed in Europe—the tiny republic of Noll, founded before Rome and maintaining its liberty for many centuries—until Napoleon swept away its privileges—is today merely a fishing village near Genoa, but it is full of reminders of its former greatness and affords a wonderful glimpse of mediaeval times. Destroyed by the Carthaginians in 217 B. C., and who knows how often by subsequent marauders, there seemed no limit to her powers of recovery.

This quaint little fishing village maintained itself as a sovereign state for centuries, took a prominent part in the quarrels of Guelphs and Ghibellines, sent doughty warriors to the Crusades, commanded the interest of emperors and popes and only succumbed at last to the armies of Napoleon. Dante clambered hither over terrible hills on hands and knees and revenged himself by consigning Noll to his "Purgatory."

Everybody is rich in this poor man's paradise, says the Wide World Magazine. During the anchovy months it is not rare for the 120 boats to earn \$4,000 in a night, or \$75,000 in a season. Through fish alone a man earns far more than a clerk, besides which he has no "appearances" to keep up. Under these happy conditions he soon acquires land and houses, which afford a steady revenue while he sleeps or fishes. The earth here has only to be scratched in order to bring forth wealth, so rich is the soil and so abundant the water.

PERILOUS ATHLETICS.

Sport That Wrecks the Heart an Evil to Be Avoided.

"No one will gainsay the value and pleasure of outdoor exercise graduated to suit the needs of every individual throughout life," says the Journal of the American Medical Association, "but the species of overdoing called for in the intense competition of the great contests of our schools and colleges can no longer be defended by platitudes regarding the alleged psychological value of its competitive features. The time has come when statistics regarding latent athletic injuries must be reckoned with and the lives of our youth safeguarded by making a distinction between same sport and insane participation in the intolerable strain of competitive games of the extreme type."

The same paper says the authorities of colleges need to be reminded in an emphatic way, in the words of Dr. R. N. Wilson of Philadelphia, that "no form of athletic event is sane that demands of the participants the semiconscious state of heart exhaustion at its conclusion."

And it denounces the daredevil forms of "sport" that depend for their thrill on nearest possible approach to death by the actors in them, such, for example, as "looping the loop" in an aeroplane or driving a motorcar a hundred miles an hour. Such, it says, are not sport, but degeneracy.

The Frank Walsh Musical Comedy.

Frank Walsh has just closed one week's engagement in St. Johnsbury with great success. The manager, Mr. Story, wished to keep Mr. Walsh and get one more week but Mr. Walsh had made other arrangements with Mr. Burns at Newport, where his company is playing this week, with one more record-breaking week to his credit. He is coming to Orleans the evenings of March 13 and 14 at the opera house with his company and assures the citizens of Orleans that he will give them something full of comedy and lots of singing and dancing. Mr. Walsh closed in Montreal with a sixteen weeks' engagement at the Majestic theatre, also at Portland, Me., a four weeks' engagement at Greeley theatre with big success. Don't forget the date. Popular prices, ten, 20 and 30 cents.

ORLEANS

Clarence Bushy has been spending a few days in Boston.

The high and graded schools will begin Monday, March 13.

W. L. Locke of Lyndonville visited his son, G. F. Locke, last week.

E. B. Willey of Manchester, N. H., is a business visitor in town.

Mrs. Stella Milliken of Portland has been visiting friends and relatives here.

Mrs. Charles Blake has moved to Concord, N. H., where Mr. Blake has employment.

Archie Brown has moved from the Brown and Skinner block to a farm in Irasburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wellman of Newport spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Smith.

Mrs. B. L. Lumbr is taking a two months' vacation from her duties with the Fletcher Post Card company.

Miss Eva Bassett has returned from a two weeks' trip to the Boston and New York millinery market.

Independent telephones have been installed for Truman Blake of Brownington and Erwin Wells of Irasburg. Both are connected with the local central.

We call your attention to the notice in the Barton locals, of the extension school in home economics to be held in Barton from March 14 to 17. All women in Orleans are cordially invited to attend.

* HOW TO MAKE PIES FOR A *
* FAMILY OF TWO. *

* Pies for two persons made in *
* five inch pie plate, three-quarters *
* inch thick (eight of them): *
* Crust.—A cupful pastry flour, *
* salt, two (big) teaspoonfuls lard. *
* This will make a two crust pie, *
* half the amount for a one crust *
* pie. Use as little water as possi- *
* ble to roll. *
* Apple Pie.—Two large apples; *
* slice thin; little salt, butter, dash *
* nutmeg, spoonful sugar; two *
* crusts. *
* Apple Custard Pie.—Two cup- *
* fuls apple sauce sweetened to *
* taste, yolk of one egg, little lem- *
* on extract. Make a frosting of *
* the white of the egg; little sugar; *
* set in oven a minute to brown. *
* Custard Pie.—An egg, a pint *
* of milk, teaspoonful of flour, salt, *
* sugar and nutmeg to taste. *
* Coconut Pie.—Same as custard *
* pie, with two teaspoonfuls of co- *
* conut over the top. *
* Lemon Pie.—One-half lemon, a *
* cupful or a little more water, *
* yolk of an egg, teaspoonful flour, *
* sugar to taste and salt. Bake *
* with one crust, frost with white *
* of egg and little sugar. *
* Squash Pie.—A cupful squash, *
* a cupful milk, a teaspoonful *
* flour; sugar and spice to taste. *
* Mock Mince Pie.—Small cupful *
* sugar, cupful of cracker crumbs, *
* one-half cupful water, spoonful *
* vinegar, one-half cupful chopped *
* raisins, little salt; butter and *
* spice to taste; two crusts. *
* Prune Pie.—Two cupfuls cook- *
* ed and stoned prunes, little lem- *
* on extract and sugar to taste; *
* bake with two crusts or with one *
* and frost. *

DOUBLY PROVEN.

Barton Readers Can No Longer Doubt the Evidence.

This Barton citizen testified long ago

Told of quick relief—of undoubted benefit

The facts are now confirmed

Such testimony is complete—the evidence conclusive

It forms convincing proof of merit,

Mrs. E. C. Wilkie, High street Barton, says: "For quite a while my kidneys were disordered and I suffered from pains in my back and other symptoms of kidney complaint. Knowing of people who had been cured by Doan's Kidney Pills, I got a supply at the Barron Company's store and began using them. Three boxes brought about a great improvement." OVER TWO YEARS LATER, Mrs. Wilkie said: "Doan's Kidney Pills have proven very satisfactory to me and others of my family, and I don't hesitate in again recommending them"

Price 50c. at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Wilkie has twice publicly recommended. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.



Mothers!

Your cares in comforting the aches and pains of the family from youth to old age, are lessened when you use this old and trust-worthy remedy—

Sloan's Liniment

Bruises—Rheumatism—Neuralgia

Mothers: "Keep a bottle in your home"

Price 25c., 50c. and \$1.00

A Sunny Disposition


in the morning follows the use of

Rexall

Orderlies

the night before

The laxative tablet with the pleasant taste



We have the exclusive selling rights for this great laxative

The Rexall Store

AUSTIN'S PHARMACY, ORLEANS

FARMS FOR SALE

1252—Farm of 25 acres, 7 miles to up-to-date R. R. town of North Troy, Vt., 1/2 mile to South Troy and school, on main road, spring water at house and barn. Small fruit for home use, 15 acres tillage, dark loam, smooth, few stones. All machine work, will winter 4 head and pasture the same. Pasture watered by brooks. 2-story house 28x38, 6 rooms on 1st floor, 2 rooms on 2nd floor. Stock barn connected to house, 30x40, stable arranged for 4 head and horse stalls. There are 4 cows, 1 yearling, 5 calves, 1 horse, all hay, grain and fodder, 1 mowing machine, 2 horse-drawn, 3 plows, 2 springtooth and 1 smoothing harrow, 1 cultivator, 1 corn planter and all small tools, 2 open buggies, 2 one-horse wagons, 2 sets double work sleds, 1 single sled, 1 pump, 2 cutter sleighs, 2 sets work harnesses, 1 light driving harness. Price \$2100.00.

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120 acres, 1-2 mile from camps, sold last year \$400 worth of truck and \$300 worth of strawberries to campers, also milk, etc. On main road. Two story eight room house, furnace heat, running water, telephone and hardwood floors. Barns 50x80 and 15x20. 100 grafted apple trees, one acre strawberries, 800 St. Regis raspberry bushes, five hotbeds, sugar orchard of 800 trees equipped, 150,000 feet lumber, 12 cows, 5 horses, other stock, and tools. All for \$7000. Why look for a gold mine?

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